Private Sector participation in oil exploration

5078. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of NELP in round 1 and round 2 Government are not able to attract major companies to invest in exploration of petro products in the country despite global tenders;

(b) if so, the quantum of additional crude oil found as a result of participation of foreign companies in oil exploration;

(c) the amount of money the private Indian and foreign companies together have invested in oil exploration so far; and

(d) what are their total returns, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), contracts have been signed with the oil companies based in Canada, Russia, U.K. and USA either Singly or in Joint Ventures. Out of these, two oil discoveries have already been made from one of the blocks.

(c) and (d) The total investment made by the private companies including foreign companies in first two rounds of NELP is approximately Rupees 19.52 Crores as on 31st March 2001. The exploration by these private companies under NELP has not reached the production stage and hence the return to these companies cannot be assessed.

Usage of Renewable Energy Sources by ONGC

5079. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what kind of Solar Photovoltaic Systems and Renewable Energy Sources are being used by ONGC at their off-shore platforms in Mumbai;

(b) since when these systems are being used to supply electricity to the platforms of ONGC;

(c) the criteria being adopted so far in choosing such systems and what has been the mode of purchase of these systems with the names of the foreign/ domestic companies; and

(d) the total cost of such systems supplied to ONGC during the last two years with the names of suppliers?